

Summary

Claims 1-13 were pending. Claim 2 was cancelled, Claim 1 rewritten, and Claims 14-34 added. No new matter was added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 9, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Blanchard (U.S. Patent 6,692,137) and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blanchard. Claims 2-8 and 11-12 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 2 and cancelled Claim 2. Applicants have added Claim 14, which incorporates the elements of Claims 1 and 3, and dependent Claims 15-24. Applicants have also added Claim 25, which incorporates the elements of Claims 1 and 11, and dependent Claims 26-34.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.
Registration No. 46,193
Agent for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200